

University of Manchester Q-Step Summer Project 2019

Ref: #2 UoMQStep 2019 Open Data Watch - Open Data for the SDGs

For enquires, contact Dr Martin Prowse, martin.prowse@manchester.ac.uk (Lecturer) or the Q-Step general email – q-step@manchester.ac.uk

Organisation Name: Open Data Watch

Team/Department: Official statistics, microdata

Address: OpenGovHub, 1110 Vermont Avenue Washington, Fifth Floor, D.C. 20005 USA

Provisional title for project: Assessing the openness of microdata for sustainable development

The Sustainable Development Goals are the blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all. They address the global challenges we face, including those related to poverty, inequality, climate, environmental degradation, prosperity and peace and justice. To achieve these goals, and to measure and monitor progress towards them, data, especially open data, are critical. Building from our organizations flagship project, the Open Data Inventory (ODIN), we will apply its assessment of the openness and coverage of official statistics to microdata, or sets of records containing information on individual persons, households or business entities. Microdata are used in official statistics for the production of aggregate information but have tremendous untapped potential on their own to fill data gaps, produce additional disaggregations on varying populations, establish baselines, or provide ongoing monitoring. Working with a team of researchers, this project offers an opportunity to create an assessment methodology of the openness of microdata and pilot that methodology, adjusting where necessary. The project will explore questions around the accessibility of microdata by national statistics offices, anonymization and de-identification of microdata, dissemination of microdata, and further topics.

Key words (up to 12): micro-data, official statistics, sustainable development goals, international development, methodology, secondary data analysis, data gaps/availability

Essential and desirable skills that the student would need to have:

Essential:

- Previous research experience and strong analytical skills
- Ability to work independently and professionally
- Ability to write clearly and concisely
- Detail-oriented and well-organized
- Facility with Excel, Word, and Web browsers

Desirable:

- Demonstrated interest in international development and sustainable development goals
- Ability to read technical reports in a second language (especially Spanish or French)
- Knowledge of Stata, SAS, or other statistical analysis program

Where the work would be carried out:

Open Data Watch office in Washington, D.C. Office hours are 9:00AM-5PM with flexibility. We are a small team but our office is part of a much larger co-working space called the OpenGovHub. "The Hub" houses over 40 additional organizations working in the open data, development, or governance space.

Preferred selection method (interview or other method):

Interview via Skype

Interview preference (on campus, remote, in your office):

Interview via Skype

Support and training offered by the organisation:

The intern will be supervised and supported by Deirdre Appel, a Program Manager at Open Data Watch, who is also involved in this project. Other members of the Open Data Watch team will be available to offer regular support as well. Our offices are located in the OpenGovHub, a shared working space with other organizations working on issues of open government and international development. The intern is encouraged to take advantage of all Washington, D.C. has to offer during their time here by attending talks and presentations at the OpenGov Hub. We are happy to provide letters of recommendation or references upon a successful completion of the internship.

Any issues of data confidentiality and/or IPR that would need to be resolved:

None

Supporting information: N/A

Financial assistance offered by the organisation: None